A SYSTEM AND PROCESS FOR PRESENTING SEARCH RESULTS IN A TREE FORMAT

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and process for graphically displaying the results of a standard electronic search to a user on a display device via an interactive search results window in which the user views and refines search results items using a tree format. In general, the tree has a first level that indicates *how* the search results may be refined. The second level of the tree shows what subsets (*what*) are available for a particular refining method. The third level shows *how* the already refined (by the second level) results may be refined further. This is repeatedly applied with odd-numbered levels of the tree indicating how the results may be refined, and even-numbered levels indicating what subsets are available. In addition to the tree, the search results window also includes a listing of the search results items associated with a user-selected portion of the tree.